

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the present Reply and Amendment. By this Reply and Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 7-16 have been canceled to expedite prosecution of the application, the cancellation of such claims being without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Also by this Reply and Amendment, claims 3, 6 and 17 have been amended. In addition, new claims 19-37 have been added, which claims depend from either claim 17 or 18. Accordingly, claims 3-6 and 17-37 are presently pending in this application. Applicant submits that claims 3-6 and 17-37 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

As noted, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

In the prior Office Action, claims 3-5 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claim 3 has been amended to be in independent form and to include the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. Claims 4 and 5 depend from allowable amended claim 3. The objection to claims 3-5 is thus overcome and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Claim 6 is amended to change the dependency to amended claim 3. It is axiomatic that a claim that depends from an allowable claim is also allowable. Applicant submits that amended claim 6 is thus also allowable, and notice that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claims 7-9 have been canceled to avoid subject overlap with amended claims 4-6.

Claims 10-16 have been canceled.

Claim 17 was objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claim 17 has been amended to be in independent form and to include the limitations of the

base claim. The objection to claim 17 is thus overcome and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

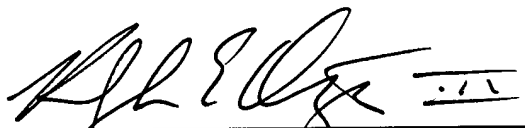
Claim 18 was allowed and is provided in its original form in accordance with the proto-type testing.

New claims 19-28 depend from allowable claim 17, and new claims 29-37 depend from allowed claim 18, and further define features of the invention. Because a claim that depends from an allowable or an allowed claim is also allowable, new claims 19-37 are in allowable form.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present Application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the Application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the Application. This reply under 37 CFR 1.111 is in the prototype format per the prototype testing within art unit 2827. Accordingly, a marked up version to show changes made is not attached hereto.

If any additional fees result from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. FEC-11704.

Respectfully submitted,
RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K.A. Clark", is written over a horizontal line.

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